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# Things looking up for Rewald after sale of life story

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It is not quite the style to which he became accustomed when spending \$5 million as head of Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong.

But things are looking up again for Ronald R. Rewald.

The Ford LTD station wagon he rented can't hold a candle to the RRR Rolls Royce he once drove, but the wagon did cost a tidy \$700 a month.

He's not living in a \$1 million waterfront mansion in Honolulu any more.

But he has retained his family house that cost \$3,400 a month.

Before that, Rewald was ensconced in an \$85-a-day room at

the Westwood Plaza Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard. He spent \$3,452.56 on hotel bills before he was done.

Sure, it's only a Holiday Inn, but it's a far cry from the cell at Oahu Community Correctional Center where Rewald was at this time last year.

For Rewald, facing federal and state charges of defrauding 400 investors out of \$22 million, has managed to convert his sow's ear into a silk purse.

He has sold all he has left — his life story.

According to documents filed by the U. S. Attorney's office, Rewald has received \$20,000 in the past three months and could earn \$750,000 over the next five years from a man

who bought the right to tell his

Much of the money has come to Rewald, directly and indirectly, from Harold Kauffman, a San Francisco real estate developer.

Kauffman, of Palo Alto, says he has paid Rewald \$10,200 so far, at an initial rate of \$1,400 a week, for the fourth year to \$1,400 a week.

"To date, I have personally paid Mr. Rewald a total of \$8,500 under the consulting agreement," Kauffman said in an affidavit filed with the court.

Of that amount, \$4,500 is an advance against consulting fees not yet due, he said.

Kauffman also says he has paid Rewald a \$1,000 fee for the right to name Rewald chief executive officer of Kauffman's Voyager Communications, Inc.

If Kauffman chooses to make Rewald his CEO, he would be obliged to pay him \$750,000 over a five-year period.

Kauffman said he has not exercised that option, and has no plans to do so unless Rewald is exonerated.

And Kauffman said he has paid Rewald \$10,200 so far against an initial \$25,000 for the rights to Rewald's life story.

The \$10,200 was paid directly to the lessor of Rewald's rented home at 647 June Street in Los Angeles, Kauffman said.

Kauffman's company has also

agreed to lease the house, some furniture and a car for Rewald, to a maximum of \$25,000, as an advance on his fee for the life story rights.

The life story agreement provides Rewald can get another \$25,000, plus 50 percent of the proceeds from sale of the story.

The money raises questions about whether Rewald is so poor that the general public should be obliged to hire a lawyer to defend him against 100 federal counts of fraud, perjury and income tax evasion.

Assistant U. S. Attorney John Peyton said in a memorandum filed with the federal court that "the government has produced evidence that substantial eco-

nomic resources are available to" Rewald.

He urged the court to "conduct a full and detailed inquiry into the entire financial picture of Mr. Rewald."

If Rewald doesn't prove he is indigent, Peyton said, the court should deny his request for appointed counsel; or, Peyton suggested, at least make Rewald pay part of the bill.

But federal public defender Michael Levine, whose office is representing Rewald, was quoted yesterday as saying Rewald may still qualify for a public defense because it could cost \$350,000 for a private lawyer to handle Rewald's case.

The question of Rewald's indigency is set for hearing Oct. 1.